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Reckitt Benckiser NVO:

% Reckitt Benckiser plc

Dansom Lane

HULL

HU8 7DS

CMB 5/12	
TO: KHS12	TRANS
11289P4C13	
DATE	KH
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REMARKS	
RENEWAL	

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Your Reference: 11289P4 GB/CMB

Application No: GB 0316413.4

3 December 2003

Dear Sirs

Patents Act 1977:

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 and 18(3)

Latest date for reply:

12 July 2005

I enclose two copies of my search and examination report and a copy of the citations.

By the above date you should either file amendments to meet the objections in the report or make observations on them. If you do not, the application may be refused.

Publication

I estimate that, provided you have met all the formal requirements, preparations for publication of your application will be completed soon after **7 December 2004**. At this time you will receive a letter confirming the exact date when the preparations for publication will be completed. This letter will also tell you the publication number and date of publication of your application.

Withdrawal/amendment

If you wish to withdraw your application before it is published you must do so before the preparations for publication are complete. **WARNING** - after preparations for publication are complete it will NOT be possible to withdraw your application from publication.

[†]Use of E-mail: Please note that e-mail should be used for correspondence only.



If you wish to file amended claims for inclusion with the published application you must do so before the preparations for publication are completed. If you write to the Office less than 3 weeks before 7 December 2004 please mark your letter prominently:

"URGENT - PUBLICATION IMMINENT".

Yours faithfully

John Wilson
Examiner

Important information about combined search and examination

I also ask that you take note of the following points. These might have a bearing on the future stages of your application because the examination report has been sent to you before your application has been published.

- (a) You may file voluntary amendments before making a full response to my examination report. We will publish with your application any new or amended claims you file voluntarily or as a full response, provided that they are received before preparations for publication are completed. It would help us when you file amendments before publication if you could **prominently indicate** in a covering letter whether or not the amendments are intended as a full response to the examination report.
- (b) If you file a full response to the examination report before your application is published I will consider it as soon as possible. However, if this would disrupt the publication of your application, I would have to delay taking any action until the application had been published. This delay could be up to 3 months, depending upon when we receive your response.
- (c) There is another situation when there might be a delay between you filing a full response and the Patent Office responding to it. This would arise if you met all my objections but your application had not or had only recently been published. I could not report the outcome of my re-examination until I was satisfied that the search was complete for documents published before the priority date of your invention and that anybody interested in the application has had three months following publication of the application to make observations on the patentability of your invention.
- (d) Provided that the requirements of the Act have been met, I can send your application to grant as early as three months after publication. Before doing so I will bring the original search up to date and raise with you any further objection that might result from this top-up search. However, there is a possibility that at that time I may not have access to all the patent applications published after the priority date of your invention and of possible relevance to your application. If this is the case I would have to complete the search after grant and if necessary raise any new found novelty objection then.



Application No: GB 0316413.4
Claims searched: 1-37

Examiner: John Wilson
Date of search: 2 December 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
Y		US 6223937 B1 Schmidt - whole document
Y		US 4700857 Kittscher et al - whole document
Y		WO 90/12864 A1 Unilever - whole document
Y		US 3399806 Lucas - whole document

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^V:

B8D; B8T; C3V

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

B65D

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report :

WPI, EPODOC, PAJ



Your ref: 11289P4 GB/CMB
Application No: GB 0316413.4
Applicant: Reckitt Benckiser NV

Examiner: John Wilson
Tel: 01633 814909
Date of report: 3 December 2003

Latest date for reply: 12 July 2005

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Patents Act 1977

Combined Search and Examination Report under Sections 17 & 18(3)

Inventive step

1. The invention as defined in claims 1-10, 24, 25 at least, is obvious in view of what has already been disclosed in the following documents:

US 6223937 B1	Schmidt - whole document
US 4700857	Kittscher et al - whole document
WO 90/12864 A1	Unilever - whole document
US 3399806	Lucas - whole document

2. Schmidt and Kittscher both disclose the use of heat meltable materials as closures for containers, in particular those for housing cleaning materials for use in e.g. dishwashers. Schmidt specifically refers to the use of wax materials. Unilever and Lucas disclose closures which are destroyed on contact with water, the containers again being for similar uses to the present ones. Both refer to the use of water soluble polymers such as PVA. Given the present problem it would appear to be prima facie obvious to the skilled person in the art, to try a combination of these types of material and thus arrive at the present invention, which is consequently considered to be lacking in inventive step in respect of at least the claims identified above.